

Annapolis Education Commission

January 26 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Annapolis Education Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting virtually on **Wednesday, January 26, 2022.**

Commissioners Present: Vice-Chair Booth, Macris, Collison-Lee, Golder, Pachler, Ellis, Norman, Ald. Finlayson, Bukowski (non-voting member)

Commissioners Absent: Ochs, Matthews, Starkes

AACPS: BOE Chair Dr. Joanna Tobin

City of Annapolis Staff: Hilary Raftovich

Guests: Jayme Weaver (to be commissioned for Ward 2), Cori Mackall (to be commissioned for Ward 6)

I. Call to Order

- a. Vice-Chair Booth called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm.

II. Roll Call

- a. Vice-Chair Booth verified that a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Agenda

- a. Amendment to discuss Superintendent's Search with Dr. Tobin b.

No objections to accept and approve agenda as amended **IV. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Correction to spelling of Collison-Lee
- b. No objections to accept and approve minutes as corrected **V.**

Public Testimony

- a. There was no public testimony

VI. Board of Education Update: Dr. Tobin

- a. Superintendent Search
 - i. A committee composed of BOE members Ms. Frank, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Dent, and Ms. Schallheim has been charged with overseeing the process. This committee is **not** being

charged to select the next superintendent.

li. The committee is soliciting proposals/bids until Feb.17 for a search consultant who will be instrumental in recruiting for the leadership position of AACPS, from a national search for qualified candidates.

iii. Questions and concerns were more relevant to the various levels involved as the process develops and the search/selection of the number of candidates begin to narrow.

iv. Dr. Tobin indicated to the Commission:

1. The BOE is in the very preliminary stage and most conversations have not yet occurred, but will.
2. The complete process will be as transparent and accessible as possible.
3. Participation and representation of stakeholders, including community leaders, will be an essential part of the process. Opportunities for public participation will be provided.
4. The search consultant will advise/work with the BOE, exhibit competencies such as familiarity with school systems and organizational structures as well as a perspective of specific needs of Anne Arundel County and the state of Maryland. The search consultant will be able to implement the scope of the proposal submitted.
5. Essential considerations for AACPS Superintendent:
 - :Accountability is critical in this role and no one should come into the job not understanding this;
 - Someone prepared and enthusiastic for taking on Blueprint for Maryland;
 - Someone who can take over a large and growing system, and can move education forward in these transformational times.

b. There will be an update at the next BOE meeting on School Start Times.

c. MSDE has said that counties who wish to apply for waivers for virtual learning when excessive snow days have occurred, must develop a plan as to how to incorporate virtual learning into a snowday. The BOE has developed a plan which is open for public

- comment, prior to being approved by the BOE and then submitted to MSDE.
- d. Virtual learning during Covid Outbreak: Will be determined by AA Co Health Dept as to the need for virtual learning.
 - e. There are still bus routes not covered. BOE/AACPS are working with bus contractors to find some resolution.
 - f. Delegate Heather Bagnall has introduced legislation that school boards will have parliamentarians in order to limit BOE meeting times/durations and access AA County Office of Law as a resource. AACPS BOE is in opposition to the legislation.
 - g. BOE has approved \$1000 one-time bonuses for permanent employees. All bargaining units' contracts have been ratified.
 - H. In his current budget proposal, Dr. Arlotto has recommended 4% COLA for all employees, as well as increase in positions and resources for Special Ed, Mental Health, ESOL, Bi-Lingual Facilitators as well as 10% salary increase for contractor bus Drivers. The budget is larger than in the past in order to fund and set up for Blueprint requirements.

VII. Committee Updates

- a. Charter School
 - i. At AHS, the career placement pipeline for Change Engineering program has put out a presentation for students in Entrepreneurship in conjunction with AACC.
- b. Transportation
 - i. Jess Pachler reported she was preparing information for a meeting city/community wide to see what be done about the transportation issues.
 - ii. At the Feb.2 BOE meeting, updates on School Start Times, and impacts on transportation and routes.
 - iii. A lack of bus drivers continues to be problematic. Tardiness and absenteeism mean that our students are not in the classrooms learning. Odessa Ellis shared that so many of the drivers are senior citizens. Laura Booth mentioned that perhaps a potential solution for buses is that high school seniors could prepare for and pass the CDL, and work as substitute bus drivers. Training for CDL has been offered through the Anne Arundel Workforce Community.

VIII. Unfinished Business

a. Charter School

- i. Jeff Macris reported that he had contacted the Bloomberg Foundation and was told that they were not accepting applications from interested parties around the country. They will be selecting ones from established relationships. As a result there would be no seed money for a charter school in our cluster.
- ii. Jeff feels that a charter school is still a worthy goal to pursue but will be stepping back as his tenure with the Commission ends as of this current meeting. Someone else from The Commission will need to step forward and take the lead.
- iii. Jeff will sponsor a virtual meeting on Monday Jan 31 at 7pm as an individual and invites anyone who is interested in exploring the idea of pursuing bringing a charter school to the Annapolis Cluster to attend a brainstorming session. The process of applying for a charter school is lengthy and involved.
- iv. Thoughts...
 1. Jess Pachler: Gap year school between 5th and 6th grade 8th and 9th grade for those students who have not mastered the proficiencies needed to move on successfully.
 2. Janet Norman: Expansion of CAT programs to accommodate more students who would like to be on the vo-tech training paths.
 3. Laura Booth: Better interaction with Workforce at AACC
 4. Odessa Ellis: A charter beginning in elementary school

b. Vaccine Clinics

- i.. Two clinics are scheduled to be held: Jan 31 at AMS from 3-7pm; and, Feb 6 at Eastport United Methodist Church from 12-4pm. These are walk-in clinics for children and adults, and vaccines and boosters are both available. Volunteers are needed and may earn service hours.
- ii. Testing site at corner of Baden & Calvert is opened daily from 8-2pm, and is giving away masks and rapid tests. There is also a testing site at Anne Arundel Medical Cntr.

IX. New Business

- a. There was no new business

X. Announcements

- a. AAMC is in desperate need of blood for the blood bank. Krispy Kreme will give a free box of a dozen donuts to each donor.
- b. The Cocoa Shack at Quiet Waters Park Ice Rink is opened from 5-9pm Fridays, and 3-9pm Saturdays. Volunteers are welcomed and can earn service hours. This is a fundraiser for both cluster middle schools.

Special Note: As of this meeting, Jeff Macris' commission as representative from Ward 2 will end. Janet Norman thanked Jeff for his incredible contributions to the Annapolis Education Commission. Jeff has served our cluster for over 15 years, and from the first time he participated in the Commission when it was a mere Committee, he has never let the grass grow under his feet. Janet expressed that when she first began participating at Commission meetings, she observed that Jeff hit the ground running, demonstrating skill sets in his abilities to coordinate, delegate, communicate and achieve measurable results for the Annapolis cluster. We are all so grateful to Jeff for his leadership, advocacy, tenacity, integrity, honesty, passion and clear focus. We know he will continue to be a leader and advocate for the community.

XI. Adjournment

- a. With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 23rd.

Submitted by
Pamela Bukowski